

FILED IN THE  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

May 10, 2022

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, )  
Plaintiff, ) NO: 1:22-CR-2002-MKD  
vs. ) Plea Agreement  
SKYLER CULPS, )  
Defendant, )

The United States of America, by and through Vanessa R. Waldref, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, and Matthew A. Stone, Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, and the Defendant, SKYLER CULPS, and Defendant's counsel, NICK MIRR, agree to the following Plea Agreement:

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1       **1.     Guilty Plea:**

2           The Defendant, SKYLER CULPS, agrees to plead guilty to the Indictment  
3       in this case, charging him with Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, in violation of  
4       18 U.S.C. §§ 113(a)(3) and 1153.

5       **2.     Maximum Statutory Penalties:**

6           The Defendant, SKYLER CULPS, understands that this is a Class C felony  
7       charge, which carries a maximum penalty of ten (10) years imprisonment; a fine  
8       not to exceed \$250,000; up to three years of supervised release; and a \$100 special  
9       penalty assessment.

10          The Defendant understands that a violation of a condition of supervised  
11       release carries an additional penalty of re-imprisonment for all or part of the term  
12       of supervised release without credit for time previously served on post-release  
13       supervision.

14       **3.     The Court is Not a Party to the Agreement:**

15          The Court is not a party to this Plea Agreement and may accept or reject this  
16       Plea Agreement. Sentencing is a matter that is solely within the discretion of the  
17       Court. The Defendant understands that the Court is under no obligation to accept  
18       any recommendations made by the United States and/or by the Defendant; that the  
19       Court may obtain an independent report and sentencing recommendation from the  
20       U.S. Probation Office; and that the Court may, in its discretion, impose any  
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1 sentence it deems appropriate up to the statutory maximums stated in this Plea  
2 Agreement.  
3

4 The Defendant acknowledges that no promises of any type have been made  
5 to Defendant with respect to the sentence the Court will impose in this matter.  
6 Defendant understands that the Court is required to consider the applicable  
7 sentencing guideline range but may depart upward or downward under the  
8 appropriate circumstances.  
9

10 The Defendant understands that should the sentencing judge decide not to  
11 accept any of the parties' recommendations, that decision is not a basis for  
12 withdrawing from this Plea Agreement or a basis for withdrawing this plea of  
13 guilty.  
14

16 **4. Waiver of Constitutional Rights:**  
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18 The Defendant, SKYLER CULPS, understands that by entering this plea of  
19 guilty, he is knowingly and voluntarily waiving certain constitutional rights,  
20 including:  
21

22 (a) The right to a jury trial;  
23 (b) The right to see, hear and question the witnesses;  
24 (c) The right to remain silent at trial;  
25 (d) The right to testify at trial; and  
26 (e) The right to compel witnesses to testify.  
27

1           While the Defendant is waiving certain constitutional rights, he understands  
2 that he retains the right to be assisted through the sentencing, and any direct appeal  
3 of the conviction and sentence, by an attorney who will be appointed at no cost if  
4 he cannot afford to hire an attorney.

5           **5. Elements of the Offense:**

6           The United States and the Defendant agree that in order to convict the  
7 Defendant of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, in violation of 18 U.S.C.  
8 §§ 113(a)(3) and 1153, the United States would have to prove beyond a reasonable  
9 doubt the following elements:

10           (a) First, the defendant assaulted J.L. by intentionally striking him;  
11           (b) Second, the defendant acted with the intent to do bodily harm to  
12           J.L.;  
13           (c) Third, the defendant used a dangerous weapon;  
14           (d) Fourth, the assault took place in Indian Country; and  
15           (e) Fifth, the Defendant was an Indian.

16           **6. Factual Basis and Statement of Facts:**

17           The United States and the Defendant stipulate and agree that the following  
18 facts are accurate; that the United States could prove these facts beyond a  
19 reasonable doubt at trial; and that these facts constitute an adequate factual basis  
20 for SKYLER CULPS's guilty plea. This statement of facts does not preclude  
21 either party from presenting and arguing, for sentencing purposes, additional facts

1 which are relevant to the guideline computation or sentencing, unless otherwise  
2 prohibited in this agreement.  
3

4 On or about December 8, 2021, the Defendant SKYLER CULPS assaulted a  
5 person identified as J.L. when J.L. had won a dice game and the Defendant had  
6 become angry at J.L for winning. The Defendant used a knife to intentionally  
7 strike J.L. in the chest, intending to do bodily harm to J.L.  
8

9 The assault occurred in White Swan, Washington, within the exterior  
10 boundaries of the Yakama Nation Reservation, which is within the Eastern District  
11 of Washington. The Defendant is an enrolled member of a federally recognized  
12 Indian Tribe. The Defendant's bloodline is derived from a federally recognized  
13 Indian Tribe.  
14

16 **7. The United States Agrees:**

17 The United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Washington  
18 agrees not to bring any additional charges against the Defendant based upon  
19 information in its possession at the time of this Plea Agreement and arising out of  
20 his conduct involving illegal activity charged in the Indictment in this case, unless  
21 he breaches this Plea Agreement any time before or after sentencing.  
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26 **8. United States Sentencing Guideline Calculations:**  
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The Defendant understands and acknowledges that the Court will consult the United States Sentencing Guidelines (hereinafter “U.S.S.G.”) and take them into account when sentencing. The Defendant also understands, however, that pursuant to *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), the Sentencing Guideline range is advisory and that the court is required to consider the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) and to impose a reasonable sentence.

(a) Base Offense Level:

The United States and the Defendant agree that the base offense level is 14. See U.S.S.G. § 2A2.2(a).

(b) Specific Offense Characteristics:

The United States and the Defendant agree that the base offense level is increased 4-levels as a dangerous weapon was used. *See U.S.S.G. § 2A2.2(b)(2)(B)*. Furthermore, the United States and the Defendant agree that the base offense level is increased an additional 3-levels as the victim suffered bodily injury. *See U.S.S.G. § 2A2.2(b)(3)(A)*.

(c) Acceptance of Responsibility:

If the Defendant pleads guilty and demonstrates a recognition and an affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for the criminal conduct; provides complete and accurate information during the sentencing process; does not commit any obstructive conduct; and enters a plea of guilty as soon thereafter as it may be

1 placed on the court's docket, the United States will recommend that the Defendant  
2 receive a two (2)-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility, and if his  
3 adjusted offense level is sixteen (16), or greater, the United States will move for a  
4 one (1)-level reduction for timeliness. See U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1 (a) and (b).

5  
6 The Defendant and the United States agree that the United States may, at its  
7 option and upon written notice to the Defendant, not recommend a three (3) level  
8 downward reduction for acceptance of responsibility if, prior to the imposition of  
9 sentence, the Defendant is charged or convicted of any criminal offense  
10 whatsoever or if the Defendant tests positive for any controlled substance.

11  
12 (d) Criminal History:

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14 The United States and the Defendant have no agreement as to the  
15 Defendant's criminal history score. However, the United States and the Defendant  
16 agree that the criminal history computation ultimately will be determined by the  
17 Court after review of the Presentence Investigation Report.

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19 **9. Departures/Variances:**

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21 The Defendant may request a departure and/or variance. The United States  
22 reserves the right to object to a request for a departure and/or variance.

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1                   **10. Incarceration:**

2                   The United States agrees to recommend a sentence of twenty-four (24)  
3 months imprisonment. Defendant may ask for any lawful sentence.  
4

5                   **11. Fines:**

6                   The United States and Defendant reserve the right to make whatever  
7 recommendation they believe is appropriate concerning the imposition of a  
8 criminal fine.  
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10                  **12. Supervised Release:**

11                  The United States and the Defendant agree to recommend that the Court  
12 impose a three (3)-year term of supervised release.  
13

14                  The Defendant reserves the option to file a motion seeking early termination  
15 of supervised release pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3583(e)(1). Defendant recognizes that  
16 early termination of supervision is subject to the Court's discretion.  
17

18                  **13. Restitution:**

19                  The United States and the Defendant hereby stipulate and agree that,  
20 pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3663, 3663A, and 3664, the Court should order restitution to  
21 J.L. concerning injuries suffered on or about December 8, 2021. Furthermore, the  
22 United States and the Defendant hereby stipulate and agree that pursuant to  
23 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663, 3663A, and 3664, the Court should order restitution to all  
24 medical providers, as well as the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund, relating to  
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1      injuries suffered by J.L. on or about December 8, 2021, in an amount not to exceed  
2      \$10,000. However, the Defendant reserves the right to review the Presentence  
3      Investigation Report and present argument as to the total amount of restitution.  
4

5      **14. Mandatory Special Penalty Assessment:**

6      The Defendant agrees to pay the \$100 mandatory special penalty assessment  
7      to the Clerk of Court for the Eastern District of Washington, at or before  
8      sentencing, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3013 and shall provide a receipt from the Clerk  
9      to the United States before sentencing as proof of this payment.  
10

12      **15. Payments While Incarcerated:**

13      If the Defendant lacks the financial resources to pay the monetary  
14      obligations imposed by the Court, he agrees to earn the money to pay toward these  
15      obligations by participating in the Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial  
16      Responsibility Program.  
17

19      **16. Appeal Rights:**

20      The Defendant waives his right to appeal his conviction and the sentence the Court  
21      imposes, unless the Court imposes a sentence greater than twenty-four (24) months  
22      imprisonment and including any restitution order so long as the amount of  
23      restitution is less than \$10,000. The Defendant further expressly waives his right  
24      to file any post-conviction motion attacking his conviction and sentence, including  
25      a motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255, except one based upon ineffective  
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1 assistance of counsel based on information not now known by the Defendant and  
2 which, in the exercise of due diligence, could not be known by the Defendant by  
3 the time the Court imposes the sentence.  
4

5 The Defendant acknowledges that this waiver shall result in the dismissal of  
6 any appeal or collateral attack, except as it relates to a sentence greater than  
7 twenty-four (24) months or restitution more than \$10,000, the Defendant might file  
8 challenging the conviction or sentence in this case, except for ineffective assistance  
9 of counsel as noted above. If the Defendant files a notice of appeal, a habeas  
10 petition, or other collateral attack, notwithstanding this agreement, he agrees that  
11 this case shall, upon motion of the United States, be remanded to the District Court  
12 to determine whether the Defendant is in breach of this agreement and, if so, to  
13 permit the United States to withdraw from the Plea Agreement.  
14

17 **17. Integration Clause:**  
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19 The United States and the Defendant acknowledge that this document  
20 constitutes the entire Plea Agreement between the United States and the  
21 Defendant, and no other promises, agreements, or conditions exist between the  
22 United States and the Defendant concerning the resolution of the case. This Plea  
23 Agreement is binding only upon the United States Attorney's Office for the  
24 Eastern District of Washington, and cannot bind other federal, state or local  
25 authorities. The United States and the Defendant agree that this agreement cannot  
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1 be modified except in a writing that is signed by the United States and the  
2 Defendant.  
3

4 **Approvals and Signatures**

5 Agreed and submitted on behalf of the United States Attorney's Office for  
6 the Eastern District of Washington.  
7

8  
9 VANESSA R. WALDREF  
United States Attorney

10 

11 5/4/2022

12 Date

13 MATTHEW A. STONE  
Assistant United States Attorney

1 I have read this Plea Agreement and have carefully reviewed and discussed  
2 every part of the agreement with my attorney. I understand and voluntarily enter  
3 into this Plea Agreement. Furthermore, I have consulted with my attorney about  
4 my rights, I understand those rights, and I am satisfied with the representation of  
5 my attorney in this case. No other promises or inducements have been made to  
6 me, other than those contained in this Plea Agreement, and no one has threatened  
7 or forced me in any way to enter into this Plea Agreement. I am agreeing to plead  
8 guilty because I am guilty.

12  
13   
14 SKYLER CULPS  
15 Defendant

5/4/22  
Date

16 I have read the Plea Agreement and have discussed the contents of the  
17 agreement with my client. The Plea Agreement accurately and completely sets  
18 forth the entirety of the agreement between the parties. I concur in my client's  
19 decision to plead guilty as set forth in the Plea Agreement. There is no legal reason  
20 why the Court should not accept the Defendant's plea of guilty.

23   
24 NICK MURR  
25 Attorney for Defendant  
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5/4/22  
Date